

Hall Center for the Humanities
2009 FALL FACULTY COLLOQUIUM
GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPANT COMPETITION

The Hall Center sponsors colloquia that are designed to enliven the intellectual atmosphere of the University of Kansas and contribute to the scholarly growth of KU scholars. The colloquia director determines the theme, provides intellectual leadership and guidance, acts as coordinator and facilitates feedback to participants on their presentations. The participants each present a paper and contribute to the discussion.

Award: One KU graduate student from any social science, arts or humanities discipline will be selected to join Seven Faculty participants. Each colloquium participant presents a paper or other piece of original work, including the graduate student, and participants must commit to attend and participate in all colloquium sessions. The graduate student will be awarded \$500.

Application Deadline: All application materials are due on or before **June 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** for participation in the Fall 2009 colloquium.

2009 Fall Faculty Colloquium Information
Theme: **Respectability**

DIRECTOR: Ann Schofield, Professor, American Studies/Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Respectability, like pornography, is difficult to define but we believe we know it when we see it. In part, this familiarity with the reference “respectable” or “respectability” is because, again, like pornography, it’s a word commonly used. Someone is from a respectable family or lives in a respectable part of town or turns in a respectable performance on an exam. Aretha Franklin alludes to respectability when she asks for R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Ask the person on the street to define respectability, however, and most would be hard pressed to come up with anything but a self referential definition such as, respectable is, well, respectable. Even the Oxford English Dictionary describes respectability as the “state of being respectable.”

Yet when one turns to scholarship in a wide variety of disciplines, it seems that a concern for respectability is everywhere – anthropologists debate the difference between respectability and reputation in the Caribbean, U.S. historians note that Thomas Jefferson “lamented the lack of respectability” in his presumptive heirs. British labor historians examine how the British working class distinguished itself as respectable; students of African American culture deploy “the politics of respectability;” feminist scholars ask if respectability limits or empowers women or men: and historian Stephan Thernstrom famously concluded his study of social mobility in nineteenth-century America with the statement that more Americans went from rags to respectability than from rags to riches. Respectability can be embedded in objects like pianos and violated by artists like *les fauves*. Respectability plots drive English literature from Austen to Dickens and social scientists question the relationship of respectability to class. In other words, one would be hard pressed to find a field in the humanities or social sciences where respectability can’t be fruitfully studied. It is an ideal topic around which to organize an interdisciplinary seminar.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
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Graduate Student Application Guidelines:

Submit to the Hall Center TWO (2) copies of the complete application, collated in the order shown. Materials received after 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2009 will not be considered.

Application Cover Sheet

Abstract of the proposed work, not to exceed two double-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and twelve-point type.

Two page vitae that includes:

- record of applicant's education, including the dates when degrees were awarded and are expected;
- record of applicant's employment;
- list of applicant's publications, include page numbers for journal articles and book chapters; and
- list of applicant's awards and grants received during the last five years.

No extraneous materials will be considered.

Criteria:

A committee appointed by the Hall Center Director and including the Colloquium Director selects the colloquium participants according to the following criteria:

- merit of the proposed work and its potential for interdisciplinary appeal;
- quality of the conception, organization and description of the proposed work; and
- significance of the contribution that the proposed work will make to thought and knowledge in the pertinent genre, tradition or field and to the humanities generally upon publication.

Direct questions about the Fall Faculty Colloquium competition to Hall Center Director Victor Bailey (4-7822; vbailey@ku.edu) or Associate Director Kristine Latta (4-7823; klatta@ku.edu). Questions about topics may also be directed to Victor Bailey or Ann Schofield (4-2304; schofield@ku.edu).

Mail or deliver application to: **Hall Center for the Humanities**
ATTN: Spring Faculty Colloquium Graduate Student
Competition
900 Sunnyside Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66045-7622

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
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APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name (last, first, middle): _____

Department: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone (work): _____ (home): _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

TITLE OF PROPOSED WORK:

KU Graduate Student Status:

Masters Program

PhD Program [ABD Not ABD]

Years in Program: _____

*Applicants who are ABD will be given priority consideration.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____